

SEPIA TUNICATA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus carnosum; vagina excipiente pectus, ad
cujus basin tubus.

Brachia (præter bina tentacula peduneulata
in plerisque) octo, interius adspersa cirris
verrucosis.

Os inter brachia, terminale, corneum.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 3149.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

SEPIA corpore toto tunicæ nigræ pellucidæ in-
cluso, posterius alis duabus semicircularibus.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 3151.

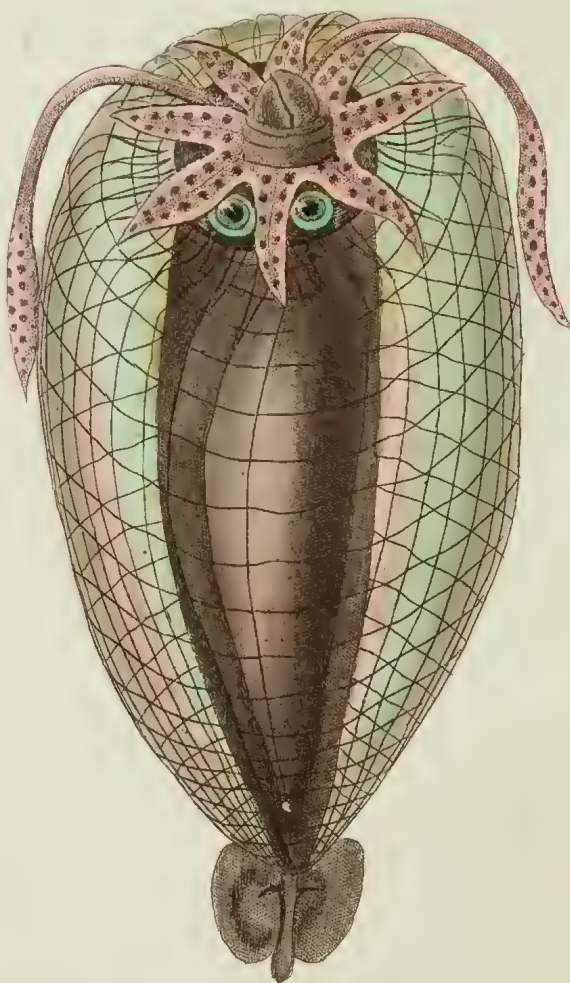
SEPIA TUNICATA.

Molina. Hist. Chil. p. 174.

Copiam dedimus lectoribus miram admodum Se-
piæ speciem examinandi, a Molina, ut videtur, primo
recte descriptam, in historia Chilensi. In maribus
enutritur tum Indicis tum Americanis, et in mag-
nam molem crescere dicitur; quingentas nempe li-
bras pondere æquare, si non excedere. Longe tamen
minora sunt quæ vulgo spectantur specimina. Hoc
ei commune est cum reliquo genere, ut pisces præ-
detur

detur et alia marina animalia; ab aliis omnibus quas adhuc novimus sepiis in illo insigniter discrepanti, quod corpus contegat membrana ampla, inflata, pellucida, a parte superiore usque ad caudæ initium reflexa, fibris plurimis subnigris, certo intervallo hinc inde se mutuo decussantibus reticulata, extrinsecus iricolor, veluti est pellis *Sipunculi saccati*. Iconem mutuati sumus ab opere Montfortii, qui suspicatur, nec immerito, ab hac sepia quasi archetypa exortum esse imaginarium *piscem reticulatum* Aldrovandi; cujus corpus squamis, pinnis, et dentibus instruitur veri piscis. Huic conjecturæ liceat mihi et meam adjicere, non impossibile esse quin Sepia hæc indocte descripta, et minus affabre depicta, origo fuerit *piscis reversi* Aldrovandi, qui depingitur corpore anguillæ non absimili, saccoque vasto et inflato supra caput imposito, quo pisces propius natantes arripere, et ab Americanis in cymbis portari dicitur, ut ad certum spatium in mare demissus una cum præda recipiatur.

Depingitur ab Aldrovando phocam e mari attollens.



THE
BALLOON CUTTLE-FISH.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body fleshy, sheathing the breast, which is furnished at its base with a tubular opening.

Arms eight, and, in most species, two pedunculated tentacula, beset with numerous suckers or acetabula.

Head short: *Eyes* large: *Mouth* resembling a parrot's beak.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Black CUTTLE-FISH, with the body coated by a transparent reticulated membrane, and two semicircular appendages at the tail.

Le Calmar réticulé.

Denys-Montfort Mollusq. 2. p. 96. pl. 21.

The highly singular species of Cuttle-Fish represented on the present plate is a native of the Indian and American seas, and seems to have been first distinctly described by Molina in his natural history of Chili. It is said to grow to an enormous size, and to the weight of five hundred pounds, or even more, though the specimens usually seen are of far inferior

inferior magnitude. Like the rest of its tribe, it is of a predacious nature, feeding on fishes and various other marine animals, and differs from every other species of Sepia yet discovered in the extraordinary envelopement of its body, which is covered by an ample, inflated, and transparent skin or membrane, reflected from the upper parts, and continued to the commencement of the tail or terminal part of the body. This membrane is reticulated or decussated by numerous dark-coloured fibres, crossing each other at certain distances, and is tinged externally with iridescent hues, like that of the *Sipunculus saccatus*.

The figure here given is taken from the work of the ingenious Mons. Denys-Montfort, who imagines this species to be the archetype of the imaginary *piscis reticulatus* of Aldrovandus, in which the body of the animal is represented like that of a real fish, with scales, fins, teeth, &c. I may venture to add, that it is not impossible but that some hasty and inaccurate drawing and description of this same species of Sepia may have also given rise to the *piscis reversus* of Aldrovandus, which is described as having a body not unlike that of an eel, with a vast inflated bag or pouch on the head, with which it is said to seize on such fishes as happen to swim near it, and to be employed by the South-American Indians for that purpose; being carried in a canoe and lowered to a certain depth into the sea, till it has taken its prize. Aldrovandus represents it in the act of drawing up a large scal.